IN THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claims 17 – 20 without prejudice.

Please ADD claims 21-33.

Claims 1-20 (CANCELLED)

Claim 21 (NEW) A method for processing financial instruments comprising a representation of said instrument and at least one processor, wherein said at least one processor performs said processing by acting upon said representation, and wherein said representation is specified separately from said at least one processor.

Claim 22 (NEW). The method of claim 21, wherein said representation further comprises said instrument's inputs, the relationships of said inputs with each other, and how said relationships combine to produce a series of financial event streams.

Claim 23 (NEW). The method of claim 22, wherein the processing performed by such processor may further comprise the processing of the instrument's inputs and the relationships of said inputs with each other in order to produce a series of financial event streams.

Claim 24 (NEW). The method of claim 23, further comprising the processing of said event streams.

Claim 25 (NEW). The method of claim 23, wherein said processing is implemented via a double dispatch mechanism.

Claim 26 (NEW). The method of claim 24, wherein said processing is implemented via a double dispatch mechanism.

Claim 27 (NEW). The method of claim 23, wherein said processing is implemented via polymorphism.

Claim 28 (NEW). The method of claim 24, wherein said processing is implemented via polymorphism.

Claim 29 (NEW). The method of claim 24, wherein a plurality of processors may be utilized to provide alternate methods of performing a type of processing upon said instrument without changing the representation of said instrument.

Claim 30 (NEW). The method of claim 22, wherein said representation is composed from a set of primitives.

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Claim 31 (NEW). The method of claim 23, wherein said representation is composed from a set of primitives.

Claim 32 (NEW). A system comprising at least one digital computer, storage means and input-output peripheral means, adapted so as to perform the processing of financial instruments in accordance with any of the methods of claims 21-31.

Claim 33 (NEW). A machine-readable medium for storing a computer program on which there has been recorded a program for adapting a computer to carry out any of the methods of claims 21-31.